

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6155

BILL NUMBER: HB 1129

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 15, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Allows Prosecuting Attorney to File CHINS Petition.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown C

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows a prosecuting attorney to request a juvenile court to authorize the filing of a petition alleging that a child is a child in need of services (CHINS) in certain circumstances and to represent the interests of the state in the child in need of services proceeding. The bill provides that the provisions expire June 30, 2015.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Commission on Mental Health and Addiction.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: HEA 1001 - 2008 (P.L 146 - 2008, SECTION 588) removed the ability of prosecuting attorneys to file CHINS petitions. As of July 1, 2009, only the DCS has been able to file CHINS petitions. Based on information provided by the DCS on the monthly number of CHINS served between January of 2002 and June of 2012, it was determined there was no discernable decrease on the number of CHINS served by the state as a result of removing this ability. Therefore, reestablishing the ability for prosecuting attorneys to file CHINS petitions is expected to have no discernable impact on the number of CHINS served by the DCS.

However, by allowing additional persons to file CHINS petitions, it is possible that this could result in a few additional CHINS in the state. If the number of CHINS increases as a result of the bill, the Department of Child Services (DCS) may experience (1) increased expenditures to provide services to a greater number of CHINS and (2) an increased staffing demand to maintain statutory caseload maximums (12:17 ratios) for family case managers (FCMs). Increases are indeterminable but expected to be small.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under the bill, local court caseload may increase to hear CHINS petitions filed by prosecuting attorneys.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DCS.

Local Agencies Affected: Courts.

Information Sources: Brady Brookes, DCS.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.